

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Missouri. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI" in a serif font, separated by a rope-like border. Inside this ring, there is a shield with various symbols, including a plow, a sheaf of wheat, and a river. Above the shield is a banner with the motto "SALUS IN SUPREMO". Below the shield is the year "MDCCCXX" (1820). The seal is centered on the page.

Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

2005 Annual Report

Background

The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) was created by SB252 and HB348. The goals of the legislation are to make Missouri more military friendly and to poise Missouri to retain the military presence that we currently have as well as enhance military presence with the addition of new missions to ensure future viability of our Missouri military installations.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development, in accordance with SB252 and HB348, provides staffing and support for the Commission.

Board Responsibilities

SB252 and HB348 have three main components:

- Establishes the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
- Provide for planning and zoning around Whiteman Air Force Base
- Allows military dependents to attend Missouri colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates

Membership

Commission Members

Mr. Dalton Wright, Lebanon, *Chairman*

Representative David Pearce, Warrensburg, *Vice Chairman*

Mr. Craig Borchelt, Chesterfield

Ms. Loretta Charleston, Florissant

Mr. Kent D. Thomas, West Plains

Mr. Robert Welling, Warrensburg

Senator Frank Barnitz, Lake Spring

Senator Chris Koster, Harrisonville

Representative Terry L. Witte, Vandalia

Ex-officio Members

Mr. Gregory A. Steinhoff, Director, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

Advisory Members

Brigadier General King E. Sidwell, Adjutant General, Missouri National Guard

Ronald L. Taylor, Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission

DED Staff

Mike Mills, Deputy Director, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

Sharon Gulick, Project Manager, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

Meetings

The Commission held its organizational meeting on May 31, 2005 in Jefferson City. At this meeting Mr. Dalton Wright, Lebanon, was elected Chair and Representative David Pearce, Warrensburg, was elected Vice Chairman. Members reviewed SB252 which outlines the goals for the Commission and the responsibilities of the board members. Members also reviewed the recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) for Missouri and the hearing scheduled for St. Louis.

Seven additional meetings have been held by the Commission on the following dates and at the following locations:

- June 29, 2005, St. Louis
- July 13, 2005, Whiteman Air Force Base/Warrensburg
- July 26, 2005, Ft. Leonard Wood/St. Robert
- August 25, 2005, Ike Skelton Training Facility, Jefferson City
- September 21, 2005, Jefferson City
- October 19, 2005, Jefferson City
- November 2, 2005, Jefferson City

At the June, July and August meetings presentations were made by commanders and staff from local military bases and facilities to inform the Commission members with respect to the impact, capabilities, current concerns and future needs for Missouri military facilities and installations.

2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) Recommendations

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations provided mixed results for the State of Missouri.

On the positive side, Whiteman Air Force Base lost no military or civilian jobs and in fact gained three (3) military and fifty-eight (58) civilian jobs. In addition, Whiteman Air Force Base received an additional nine (9) A-10 aircraft thereby bringing the 442nd Reserve Squadron to optimal size.

Fort Leonard Wood had a modest realignment and a net loss of eighty-seven (87) jobs, but future announced forecasts (not related to BRAC) indicate that Fort Leonard Wood will be receiving approximately seven hundred (700) additional personnel returning from South Korea, resulting in an overall net gain for Fort Leonard Wood.

Rosecrans Memorial Airport Air Guard Station lost no military or civilian personnel and gained eight (8) military and twenty-seven (27) civilian jobs and in addition, received four (4) additional C-130 aircraft.

On the negative side, there was a loss of two thousand nine hundred (2,900) jobs associated with the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) in St. Louis and Kansas City and the Human Resources Command (HRC) in St. Louis. With respect to Lambert International Airport in St. Louis the installation lost thirty-four (34) military and two hundred fifteen (215) civilian jobs and gained no military or civilians. Also, the fifteen (15) F-15 aircraft comprising the 131st Fighter Wing in St. Louis will be moved from Lambert to other locations outside of Missouri. The 157th Air Operations Group and the 218th Engineering Installation Group from Jefferson Barracks, geographically separates units will be moved to the vacated space at Lambert with Jefferson Barracks' real property being transferred to the Army.

The Commission has closely followed the proceedings of the 2005 BRAC Commission and will be developing strategies to mitigate the negative impact of future BRAC recommendations on Missouri.

The Department of Economic Development received a \$1 million National Emergency Grant to confront Missouri's BRAC losses and to assist workers and communities affected by the BRAC recommendations. The department's Division of Work Force Development received the grant on June 30, 2005 through the U.S. Department of Labor and is formulating plans on how to best use the funds to lessen the impact on Missouri families resulting from the negative BRAC recommendations.

Some of the measures being considered in response to the negative BRAC recommendations include setting up regional task forces that will develop locally targeted plans to help affected workers transition successfully to new jobs and assist base dependent businesses with the development of layoff aversion strategies. Tentative plans also include establishing a specialized job bank to allow affected workers to match their transferable skills to in-demand civilian occupations and creating an Internet portal designed to help these individuals easily identify all available training and job opportunities.

BRAC Consultant

The State of Missouri, through the Missouri Finance Development Board, contracted with Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA) to assist with Federal advocacy efforts pertaining to the Department of Defense 2005 BRAC recommendations impacting Missouri. Mr. Buzz Hefti headed the VSA team.

VSA worked with the Governor's staff in preparation for the June 20, 2005 field hearing in St. Louis. They identified and verified substantial deviations from the BRAC criteria within the DOD recommendations; provided strategic advice on elements to be addressed in the Governor's presentation; offered background and institutional knowledge of BRAC procedures and process; and assisted in organization and coordinating testimony for the hearing. In addition, VSA worked with the Wing Commander and staff of the 131st Fighter Wing to develop presentations that articulated substantial deviations to the BRAC commission.

2005 BRAC Local Efforts

In connection with efforts to defend Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base against loss because of BRAC, local organizations in existence or organized to energize efforts worked diligently to advocate on behalf of their military installations and raised funding for those purposes, by their own efforts. Both groups from Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base hired consultants to intensify their efforts to defend their military installations. In fact, one of the groups, Whiteman Area Leadership Council, instigated the legislation that produced the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission.

2006 Action Items

The Commission has identified a number of issues of importance to the military community in Missouri. Information was provided by Commission members, commanders at Missouri's military facilities and through comment forms provided to military personnel stationed in Missouri.

These issues have been compiled into a working list and will be the focus of the Commission's work during calendar year 2006.

1. Economic Impact of military posts and defense related industries in Missouri

- a. The Commission will, in coordination with Missouri Department of Economic Development, produce an annual report on the economic impact of Missouri's military facilities and defense-related industries.

2. Business Development and Job Creation Opportunities

The Commission will:

- a. Request that the Department of Economic Development provide appropriate staffing to deal with military issues and to support the Commission.
- b. Hold a series of meetings in 2006 with defense-related industries to identify ways that Missouri can create an environment that encourages the growth and expansion of defense-related businesses.
- c. Promote Missouri as a location for military or defense related industries.
- d. Request the Department of Economic Development (DED) to prepare an analysis of defense-related contracting and expenditures in Missouri. As part of this analysis DED will survey prime DOD contractors to determine if their sub-contracting opportunities are going to Missouri companies or out-of-state companies and will work with these prime contractors to encourage contracting with in-state companies.
- e. Investigate feasibility of offering tax credits for employers who hire military dependents.
- f. Promote job training assistance for military spouses and job creation for spouses through local economic development by leveraging

resources like the Fort Leonard Wood Technology Park and private industry partnerships.

- g. Assist recruiting by having the state provide certificates to new recruits that chose career fields that are compatible with state civilian jobs guaranteeing them an interview and possibly advantage in jobs selection for open positions.
- h. Analyze the opportunities for economic growth in the Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base areas.

3. Military Quality of Life Issues

The Commission will:

- a. Appoint a task force to review the information from the "Department of Defense Model Legislation to Address the Issues of the Mobile Military Child" and study ways in which Missouri, at both the state and local level, can best address the educational concerns of Missouri-based military personnel and their families. The Commission will, based on the recommendations of the task force, develop strategies and make recommendations after a thorough review of the options available, including the residency requirements for school board elections, as well as allowing absentee voting at school board elections by non-resident military personnel and their spouses stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base.
- b. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to allow joint reciprocating licenses for occupations such as teachers and nurses.
- c. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to allow waiving penalties for small businesses (e.g., failure to renew business registration with Missouri Secretary of State, late payment of business taxes or other fees, etc.) when the Guard or Reservist owner is on active duty.
- d. Investigate issues related to school enrollment and transfers (age, required courses, etc.) such as permitting reciprocity on required classes (e.g., "state constitution" as required part of curriculum).
- e. Review actions taken by other states to enhance the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003 (SCRA) and as appropriate make recommendations to the Missouri General Assembly.
- f. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to grant an age exemption to children of military personnel being transferred to or within Missouri, thereby allowing admission to Kindergarten or first grade whenever appropriate to the circumstances of the transferring child of those military personnel.

4. Ex-Military and Retired military initiatives

The Commission will:

- a. Advocate for a more proactive mechanism to promote the Missouri "Troops to Teachers" program.
- b. Recommend to the Missouri General Assembly funding for additional Missouri state veterans cemeteries.

- c. Advocate for awareness of education and training opportunities for military personnel.

5. Communication between Missouri Military, MMPEC and state agencies

The Commission will:

- a. The MMPEC Chair will invite each military post or base commander to designate a liaison to the MMPEC in order to provide information and ideas and assist in the accumulation of needs about military serving in Missouri.
- b. Explore the creation of an Office of Military Ombudsman to provide referral information services to military personnel and their dependents when stationed in Missouri.
- c. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to make the Chairman of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission an ex-officio member of the Missouri Veterans Commission and vice versa.
- d. Request the Governor of Missouri expand the functions of the Missouri Veterans Commission to coordinate with the agencies on the installations to ensure that active duty service members and family members, in addition to National Guard and Reservists, have the opportunity to access job services provided by the Missouri Division of Workforce Development.

6. Encroachment as a negative to expansion of military posts and bases and enhancement of mission capabilities for military posts and bases located within the state of Missouri.

The Commission will:

- a. Investigate military posts and bases in Missouri to ascertain the land expansion needs of each post or base and formulate a strategy to work with and harmonize efforts with post or base commanders to accomplish acquisition of additional land utilizing the post and base commanders discretionary authority to do so with Federal funds and, in addition, to implement whatever Federal administrative or legislative action necessary to achieve the expansion goals.
- b. Determine the feasibility of creating a standby state and local authority to provide funds to use in lieu of such Federal discretionary funds available to Commanders of posts and bases, and if appropriate to supplement with State or local funds, if necessary.
- c. Study and formulate a land bank or lease back or other land acquisition strategies providing good neighbor relations, but with land use controls to protect the mission of the military posts or bases.
- d. Investigate the possibility of state agencies or local government acquiring or protecting land needed by the military posts and bases to protect against current or latent encroachment issues.

7. Ongoing Resources

- a. The Commission recommends that Missouri contract with a consultant/advocate to assess the possibility of enhancements or losses to Missouri with regard to future BRAC or similar initiatives and to pursue

the initiatives of the Commission as outlined in the enabling legislation. The Commission further recommends that the funding and oversight of this consultant/advocate be placed within the Department of Economic Development or other appropriate state agency's FY07 budget.

- b. The Commission will request that the Missouri General Assembly provide sufficient funding to the Commission to allow for:
 - i. Staffing to support the Commission
 - ii. A consultant to provide advice and assistance on positioning Missouri to retain its existing military facilities and to acquire additional missions.



Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

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